

Comments on Docket No RM2017-3

Compassion International is a child development organization that partners with over 6,700 Christian churches in 25 countries to release over 1.8 million babies, children and young adults from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion's program is based on one to one child sponsorship. The cost of a sponsorship is \$38 per month. For this a child receives food, clothing, education, and other help for their family.

Compassion prides itself on being able to provide approximately 80% of the monthly support directly to the child, and 20% for operating expenses. A large part of being able to maintain that ratio is being able to utilize nonprofit postage rates. Increases above the CPI could put our mission in jeopardy as increased cost would cut into our 80/20 ratio. This in turn could force us to increase the monthly sponsorship rate. Compassion is a 65 year old organization, and our history tells us that increasing the rate for sponsorship causes cancellations and lost support to the children. If our partners in the countries we serve do not receive the support they need, children will need to be turned away. These children will continue to live in a cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

As postal rate increases are considered, please keep in mind the vital services that Compassion and other charitable organization provide. These service are possible in part due the nonprofit status we have and the lower rates we are able utilize.

Respectfully,

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